

School. Her unused prom dress hung in her closet, a reminder of how full of life she had been.

Kristin's friends tried to make sense of what happened.

Determined to make something positive out of this terrible loss, they started a grassroots movement: Students of Missouri Assisting Rural & Urban Transportation, or SMART. Their goal was to "promote and ensure the safety of rural transportation needs in the State of Missouri."

Many of the students who created SMART graduated a few weeks later, but younger students carried on the work. And those who graduated stayed involved as advisors.

The group developed four objectives:

First, to educate the public on the need to improve local transportation;

Second, to grow into other local districts, and then move statewide;

Third, to lobby legislators for funding to improve rural transportation; and

Fourth, to contact candidates for statewide office for their position on transportation, and use this information to educate the public.

SMART has already become a powerful advocacy group in Missouri. Just 2 months after the organization was founded, the nonpartisan group made a presentation at a meeting of the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission. Their members have also addressed the Missouri Governor's Conference on Transportation. Representatives of the group have met personally with Missouri Governor Bob Holden and members of the Missouri General Assembly to encourage additional funding for rural transportation projects.

But their greatest victory to date came in January when the Missouri Department of Transportation announced that it would upgrade more than 10 miles of highway 61 between Canton and LaGrange to a four-lane road.

Although the victory came too late for Kristin, there is no way to know how many lives it will save in the years to come. It would not have happened without the forceful activism of these young people.

I am extremely proud of these young people. Not only because of what they accomplished, but because of what they still intend to accomplish. They are not yet satisfied, and we have not heard the last of them.

The group continues to organize similar groups throughout Missouri. They have come to Washington this week to encourage Members of Congress to support highway safety and to advocate for additional federal resources for transportation infrastructure.

These committed young people can teach us all a lesson about how to get things done. The example they have set is not just valuable for other young people, but also for adults who have grown cynical about the political proc-

ess. These young leaders have shown that you can make a difference—through action and determination. And I intend to work with them to increase the Federal Government's investment in our Nation's highways.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 11, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,709,374,137,996.57, five trillion, seven hundred nine billion, three hundred seventy-four million, one hundred thirty-seven thousand, nine hundred ninety-six dollars and fifty-seven cents.

One year ago, July 11, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,665,065,000,000, five trillion, six hundred sixty-five billion, six hundred forty million.

Five years ago, July 11, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,152,640,000,000, five trillion, one hundred fifty-two billion, six hundred forty million.

Ten years ago, July 11, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,536,904,000,000, three trillion, five hundred thirty-six billion, nine hundred four million.

Fifteen years ago, July 11, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,068,672,000,000, two trillion, sixty-eight billion, six hundred seventy-two million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,640,702,137,996.57, three trillion, six hundred forty billion, seven hundred two million, one hundred thirty-seven thousand, nine hundred ninety-six dollars and fifty-seven cents during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### TRIBUTE TO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ROCHESTER COUNCIL NO. 2048

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Knights of Columbus Council No. 2048 of Rochester, NH, on the creation of the successful Future Unlimited Banquet Program. Future Unlimited is an annual event which recognizes the Valedictorians and Salutatorians from eight high schools in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.

The eight high schools represented in the program include: St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Berwick, ME, Dover High School, Somersworth High School, Farmington High School, Nute High School, Alton High School, Kingswood Regional High School and Spaulding High School.

I commend the Knights of Columbus Rochester Council for their recognition of the scholastic achievements of the high school seniors in the Seacoast region. As a former schoolteacher, I applaud the efforts of the Knights of Columbus for rewarding students who have established goals and high standards of excellence in their academic, extracurricular and civic endeavors.

The Knights of Columbus Rochester Council No. 2048 have served the citizens of Rochester and our state with pride and honor. The young men and women in the Seacoast region are blessed to have the encouragement and support of an organization which recognizes the qualities of hard work, perseverance and dedication. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent them in the U.S. Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LES AND MARILYN GORDON

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Les and Marilyn Gordon, owners of The Candlelite Inn in Bradford, NH, on being named as Inn of the Year by the Complete Guide to Bed & Breakfast Inns and Guesthouses in the United States, Canada and Worldwide.

Built in 1897, The Candlelite Inn has provided a relaxing atmosphere for visiting guests for over 100 years. The Gordons purchased the Inn in 1993, and have successfully continued the tradition of accommodating the needs of discriminating travelers touring the Lake Sunapee Region.

Throughout the year The Candlelite Inn hosts special weeks for their guests to enjoy including: Currier & Ives Maple Sugar Weekend in March, Old Glory Heritage Tours in July, August and September, Foliage Midweek Getaways in September and October, and Murder Mystery Parties throughout the year.

I commend Les and Marilyn for the economic contributions they have made to the hospitality and tourism industries in our state. The citizens of Bradford, and New Hampshire, have benefitted from their dedication to quality and service at The Candlelite Inn. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent them in the U.S. Senate.●

#### FORD MOTOR COMPANY'S LIVING LEGENDS TOUR

• Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ford Motor Company's Living Legend Tour featuring the new 2002 Thunderbird and the Mustang Bullitt GT. These Ford vehicles will drive across Missouri from July 18-20, allowing Missourians to view them. Ford Motor Company and its employees, including the men and women of the United Auto Workers, have been instrumental in keeping Missouri's economy strong and our communities prosperous. More than 8,000 Missourians are employed in Ford assembly plants, credit locations, and dealerships across the state. We are gifted with a strong automotive industry in both the Kansas City and St. Louis areas.

In addition, at each stop along this tour, Ford is raising money for the Missouri Children's Trust Fund, which is a nonprofit organization started by the state legislature in 1983. This organization provides education and training to reduce abusive situations for